AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Instruction A: Please replace the paragraph on page 2, lines 9-18 with the following amended paragraph:

The ITU and the IETF have defined a decomposition architecture for a multimedia gateway, which comprises of a multimedia gateway control unit (MGC), a multimedia process unit (MG), and the intermediary communication protocol, Megaco/H.248. The MCU, as defined in the H.323 standard, comprises of a Multipoint [[Control Unit]] Controller (MC) and a Multipoint Processor (MP). The MC is an H.323 entity on the network that provides the control of three or more terminals participating in a multipoint conference. The MC may also connect two terminals in a point-to-point conference, which may later develop into a multipoint conference. The MC provides capability negotiation with all terminals to achieve common levels of communications, and may also control conference resources. However, the MC does not perform mixing or switching of audio, video and data.

Instruction B: Please replace the paragraph on page 8, lines 6-16 with the following amended paragraph:

The MC communicates with SIP endpoints, which are connected to the packet switch network via the SIP module 345 for call signaling and call control. The information is processed by the SIP stack and is transferred to MMM 330. Users, which are connected over SCN, communicate with the MC 110 via the MP 120 or via Signaling Gateway 160 through additional H.248 Module ~~142~~ 342 via a signaling protocol like SS7 through SS7 Module 310. In communication with endpoints, which use protocols such as ~~like~~ H.320, H.321, and H.324, the MP 120 MUX/DEMUX [[,]] the signaling and control components from the multiplexed stream, transcode them into H-248/Megaco protocol and transfer them to the MC 110 via H.248 Module 340. The SS7 module 310 conveys the Non-Facility Associated Signaling (NFAS) SCN signaling to the MMM 330. This module provides the flexibility to conserve SS7 code points and allows the SS7 switch to serve multiple DMCUs.

Instruction C: Please replace the paragraph on page 13, lines 3-7 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 5 is illustrating an exemplary context, Context N 410. The context is an entity that has been generated by the DMCU for the period of the conference. It is initiated by the MC (110; Fig. 4), it is constructed by the MPMM (430; Fig. 4), and its real time management is done by VCM 510. At the end of the session the MC clears the context and returns the terminations of the context to BOAT 420 (Fig. 4).

Instruction D: Please replace the paragraph on page 13, lines 20-23 with the following amended paragraph:

Based on the above needs, the MC (110; Fig. 4) ~~request~~ requests from the MP (120; Fig. 4) to create a Context with the following terminations: two Bonding terminations 462; two H.221 MUX terminations 463; two RTP Terminations 461; an AMT 464; a VMT 465 and a DT 466. The VMT will be of type Transcoding Video Termination.

Instruction E: Please replace the paragraph on page 14, lines 28-33 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 6 is a flow diagram illustrating the steps involved in an exemplary embodiment of the present invention during a conference. During the initiation step 610, the MP (120; Fig. 4) connects to the MC (110; Fig. 4) and informs the MC ~~110~~ which termination it supports and what are the capacities and algorithms supported. This is done by sending a service change from the MP and the MC will do audit values. The MC 110 keeps track of all MPs connected to it and the capacity of each MP.

Instruction F: Please replace the paragraph on page 15, lines 1-8 with the following amended paragraph:

~~When the~~ The MC (110; Fig. 3) receives ~~from the Conferencing Service Manager, (CMM 335,~~ the conference parameters (number of participants, dial out number etc.) from the Conferencing Service Manager (CMM 335; Fig. 3). In step 612, the MC creates the conference context on the MP (120; Fig. 3). The MC ~~110~~ adds in step 614 the selected type of video mixer and audio mixer terminations to the conference; the selected terminations fit the definitions of the conference. The MP based on this information creates in step 616 the context with the added terminations, (VMT, AMT and the DT), and allocates the needed MP physical resource. It returns the identifiers of the context and terminations to the MC and the MC registers the conference in its database.

Instruction G: Please replace the paragraph on page 15, line 28 to page 16, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

The MC in step 632 instructs the MP to ~~opens~~ open the channels for communication and returns to step 620 for the next Endpoint until the MC adds all the endpoints. During the conference, both logical units [[,]] of the MP 120 and MC 110 in Fig. 4) [[,]] ~~controls~~ control the conference. In step 634, ~~The~~ the MC ~~in step 634~~ may receive H.245 commands or tunneled H.320 BAS commands that may affect the conference context. For example, getting a video fast update command from the remote end may trigger a command to the video mixer termination. In parallel and in the case of voice activated video switching, the MP [[,]] in step 636, ~~in the case of voice-activated switching~~ may activate speaker and notify the MC about the switching, whereupon the MC ~~decide~~ decides which method to use. In step 640, the MC identifying the end of the conference manages the conference tear down process. It will terminate calls and delete the terminations and context.